

ORIGINAL

02-277

April 18, 2003

Mr. Michael Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Room TW-B204  
Washington, D. C. 20554

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Subject: Deregulation of Media  
DA 02-2980  
FCC Docket 02-277  
MM Docket 01-23501-317-00244

Dear Chairman Powell:

I have just become aware of the FCC thrust to further deregulate media by lifting the caps on ownership of media outlets. FCC Commissioner Copps visited our community recently and said that none of the FCC Commissioners or the public know what has been included in the new proposal, but it will be voted on in about one and one-half months. This is the first time that I have been concerned about a major potential change in society without knowing exactly what that change entails and how extensive its impact.

I can only surmise that a full deregulation could result in one multi-media corporation owning all the newspapers, TV and radio stations in my community. Consequently, there would be one self-serving voice to the public, a potential dictator of scurrilous advertising rates and an over-powering incentive to squelch opinions and perspectives from readers, listeners and viewers. This would be the ultimate disservice and create a society best described in Orwell's 1984.

I consider the possible deregulation of media to be the item of primary concern that I have at this moment. To date, the media have done a shoddy job of fulfilling their commitment to serve the public interest. Further consolidation will only exacerbate the trend to see how fast media conglomerates can stampede to the bottom in the pursuit of

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profit.

I implore you to change the FCC rules so that none of the possibilities described above come to pass. A positive outcome for the public of a diverse regulated media is important, as it is a sustaining social fabric in our nation.

For our nation, I ask that you do the following:

- Publish the proposed regulations.
- Provide a copy of the proposed regulations to all concerned citizens.
- Schedule at least 8 public hearings throughout our country for public input.
- Establish a comment period of 120 days on the proposed regulations.

I look forward to reading your thoughts and to knowing what actions you will take on the requests I have made.

Thank you very much.



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